

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2875

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5710

E.O. 11652: GDS,12-31-79

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: DPC REPORT ON FORCE PLANS FOR PERIOD 1974-1978

REF: USNATO 5671

1. AS POINTED OUT REFTTEL, TREATMENT IN SUBJECT REPORT OF NATO-WARSAW PACT CONVENTIONAL BALANCE MAY NOT BE SATISFACTORY.

2. PARA 23 OF SUBJECT REPORT CITES THE MILITARY COMMITTEE'S JUDGEMENT THAT MANY SPECIFIC AD-70 MEASURES WHICH WERE INCLUDED IN THE FORCE GOALS HAVE NOT BEEN INCLUDED IN THE FORCE PLANS AND THAT NATO FORCES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY TO THE FULL SPECTRUM OF CONDITIONS ENVISAGED BY MC 14/3 UNLESS THOSE DEFICIENCIES ARE CORRECTED. SINCE THIS JUDGEMENT IS ASSOCIATED WITH SPECIFIC WEAKNESSES IN MILITARY CAPABILITIES THAT NEED TO BE CORRECTED, IT PROBABLY DOES NOT COMPROMISE OUR GOAL OF OBTAINING A MORE REALISTIC NATO APPRAISAL OF THE NATO-WARSAW PACT CONVENTIONAL BALANCE. US MISSION DID GET A SUBPARAGRAPH INSERTED IN THE RECOMMENDATIONS CALLING FOR REMEDY OF DEFICIENCIES SPECIFIED IN 1973 DEFENSE REVIEW, AD70 REPORTS, AND THE BASIC ISSUES STUDY.

3. PARA 23 DIS OF SUBJECT REPORT CITES MILITARY COMMITTEE
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CONCLUSION THAT WHEN THE TRENDS OF CONVENTIONAL NATO FORCES ARE COMPARED WITH QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE IMPROVEMENTS OF WARSAW PACT FORCES THE EXISTING GAP APPEARS TO BE WIDENING. THIS CONSLUSION PRESENTS A GREATER PROBLEM IN TERMS OF OUR

GOAL OF ACHIEVING A MORE REALISTIC APPRAISAL OF THE CONVENTIONAL BALANCE. BUT IT IS CITED IN THE CONTEXT OF URGING "CONTINUOUS AND VIGOROUS ACTION" TO ELIMINATE DEFICIENCIES. CONCLUSIONS SECTION OF DPC REPORT ALSO REFLECTS MC ASSESSMENT OF THE BALANCE..

4. REQUEST WASHINGTON INSTRUCTIONS AS TO ANY CHANGE THAT SHOULD BE SOUGHT IN SUBJECT REPORT AT THE DPC MEETING ON 27 NOV. GUIDANCE SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT U.S. POSITION AS PRESENTED AT MILITARY COMMITTEE LEVEL AS WELL AS POSITION WHICH SECRETARY OF DEFENSE PLANS TO TAKE AT THE DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING ON 7 DECEMBER.
RUMSFELD.

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